

REMARKS

The claims have been amended by rewriting claims 1, 7 and 12. Claims 1-3, 6, 7, 9-12, 14-16 remain in the application.

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102(e):

Claims 1-3, 6, 7, 9-12 and 14-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being clearly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,687,814 to Duppong.

Applicants respectfully traverse in part and amend in part.

The Examiner equates Applicants' "host" 203 with Duppong's "universal controller" (10) and Applicants' "at least one module" (201) with Duppong's "application attachment" (20). However, the application attachment (20) of Duppong functions as a "bridging" device between a universal controller (10) and an electronic circuit (30). Applicants claim that "at least one module interfaces with the host to provide additional functionality to the host." Duppong's universal controller (10) will not take on additional functionality without electronic circuit (30).

The Duppong reference teaches a three-part system requiring: a universal controller (10); an application attachment (20); and an electronic circuit (30). Again, the application attachment (20) operates as a "bridge". All of the embodiments taught by Duppong require that the application attachment (20) be attached to the universal controller (10) and that the electronic circuit (30) be attached to the application attachment (20), as shown in Fig 1. Further examples of the Duppong reference requiring the use of a "bridging" device to connect (10) to (30) are found in col. 4, lines 65-67 and col. 5, lines 1-5 and the independent claims. Applicants' invention, as claimed in independent claims 1, 7 and 12, utilizes only a host 203 and a module 201 and is therefore a two-part system – not a three part system.

Additionally, the Duppong reference requires prior knowledge of the electronic circuit (30) so that the correct application attachment (20) can be selected. Applicants' invention differs in that prior knowledge of any kind is NOT required. This aspect has been incorporated into the

independent claims to facilitate the prosecution of the application. No new matter has been added. Support for this amendment is found on page 4, lines 16-18 as follows:

“Moreover, no prior knowledge of connection information is required by software contained within the host 203.”

Furthermore, the Duppong reference requires that the user select an “application operation” before any interface configuration can occur (see program flowchart in Fig 2.). Applicants’ configuration, on the other hand, is completed simply by attaching the module to the host without any user interaction. The user is NOT required to select an application operation, as required by Duppong. Thus, Applicants’ invention provides a significant advantage over Duppong. These advantages were described on page 4, lines 7-16 as follows:

“[I]t is the great benefit of this invention that all that is required to establish communication is for the host and module connectors to inter-connect in order to communicate. Thus, any module 201 having an associated memory device 215, communicating configuration information to pin controller 209 can be compatible. This enables any type of module such as an accessory device to be used with the host device 203 without the need for constant “hard” wire interface compatibility.

Duppong’s system suffers from the disadvantage that it must have its FLASH memory pre-store the software in order for the universal controller (10) to be able to communicate with device (30) - (See: column 3, lines 53-56). Thus, an almost unlimited number of physical “bridges” must exist in order for the Duppong patent to really be “universally” compatible with other circuit devices. Applicants’ invention, on the other hand, claims “at least one memory device located in the at least one module for providing configuration information to the host”. Each new module that gets attached to the host contains its own configuration information to mate to the host device. Therefore, Applicants have overcome the need for a “bridging” interface that is only useful for one possible configuration.

Accordingly, the rejection of claims 1, 7 and 12, as amended, is believed to be overcome. The remaining claims are dependent claims providing further limitations on what are believed to

be allowable claims. Thus, the rejection of claims 1-3, 6, 7, 9-12 and 14-16 is believed to be overcome.

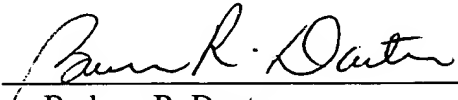
Accordingly, this application is believed to be in proper form for allowance and an early notice of allowance is respectfully requested.

Please charge any fees associated herewith, including extension of time fees, to 50-2117, Motorola, Inc.

Respectfully submitted,

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